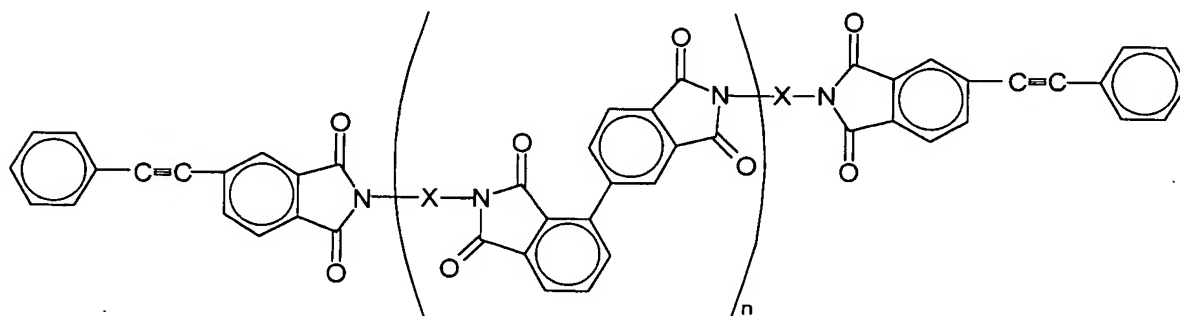


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A foamed polyimide shaped article obtained by molding and then calcining a mixture of pulverized pieces of a pre-foamed polyimide resin mass and a heat resistant binder.
2. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pre-foamed polyimide resin mass is comprised of a polymer obtained using as an essential component a 2,3,3',4'-biphenyl tetracarboxylic acid component as an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid component.
3. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pre-foamed polyimide resin mass is obtained using as a diamine component a diamine having two amino groups in a molecule or an amine compound comprised of a mixture of diamine having two groups and ones having three or more groups.
4. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said heat resistant binder is an end-modified imide oligomer.
5. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said heat resistant binder is an end-modified imide oligomer obtained by reacting a biphenyl tetracarboxylic acid, an aromatic diamine compound, and 4-(2-phenylethynyl)anhydrous phthalic acid and having a logarithmic viscosity ( $\eta_{inh}$ , 30°C, 0.5 g/100 ml solvent, solvent: N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone) of 0.05 to 1.
6. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heat resistant binder is an end-modified imide oligomer of the formula:



(wherein, X is an aromatic diamine residual group and n is an integer).

7. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heat resistant binder has a melt viscosity at the temperature of use of 1 to 1000000 poise.

8. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heat resistant binder has a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of at least  $300^{\circ}\text{C}$  after calcining (curing by heating) and a flexural strength of at least  $1300 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$ .

9. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heat resistant binder is mixed into the pulverized pieces of the pre-foamed polyimide resin mass at a ratio of 2 to 30 wt%.

10. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, having a heat resistance free from changes in appearance after a heat resistance test at  $300^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 60 minutes.

11. A foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the density is  $0.01$  to  $0.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

12. A process for production of a foamed polyimide shaped article comprising pulverizing a pre-foamed polyimide resin mass, mixing the pulverized pieces with a heat resistant binder, molding the mixture to a predetermined shape, then calcining it at a temperature of at least  $350^{\circ}\text{C}$  to cure the binder and strongly bond the polyimide foam mass.

13. A process for production of a foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 12, wherein the heat resistant binder has a melt viscosity at the temperature of use of 1 to 1000000 poise.

14. A process for production of a foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 12, wherein the heat resistant binder is a polyamic acid obtained using as an essential component a 2,3,3',4'-biphenyl tetracarboxylic acid component as an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid

component.

15. A process for production of a foamed polyimide shaped article as set forth in claim 12, wherein the pre-foamed polyimide resin mass has a density of 0.0005 to 0.1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.